

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, August 15. 1706.

I Have often resolv'd to meddle no more with the dull Repetitions of the Champions for the Doctrine of *Jure Divino*; I think it is sufficiently expos'd, and I see nothing to add to the matter; it deserves Ridicule rather than Argument.

But I am push'd upon more speaking, by one that thinks he has started something unanswerable; and that in his Objection against the Right of the Freehold, having the Right of Government annexed; and to shake this, he asks an old controverted Question, and a thing many times answer'd, *Viz.* Which was prior, Dominion or Property? To which I readily answer, Property was first in Man, and yet I allow, that Government was instituted by God Almighty too; nay, I'll call *Adam* a King, or any thing he pleases; but I must tell him, God

gave *Adam* Livery and Seisin, a free Possession, before he deputed Government to him—— And the giving him the Government, was a meer Consequence of the Property; he was a rightful Freeholder, and by Vertue of his Freehold, rightful Lord— And when his Posterity were planted in the several Parts of the World, their Possession was their Freehold; and as they had one, they had a Right to settle the other.

I do therefore no where say, Government was instituted by God; for it is founded in Nature and Reason, Principles in Man immediately infused by his Maker with his Life—— But the Form of Government was certainly his own— And there was a Time, when Form of Government was not, *viz.* before Government was in its Exercise—— If thus *Adam* was a King, or what

what ever Sort of Governour you please to call him, there was a Time when he was not so.

Speaking of this, which I take to be a just Distinction, 'tis plain, Property was before Dominion; for God gave *Adam* the Possession of the World, and his Dominion was the Consequence of that Possession.

Thus the wondrous Difficulty is clear; the first Possession of the several Lands, which the Posterity of *Adam* took by Direction of their Maker, or otherwise at their Travail from *Babel*, was doubtless a Freehold, and few better Tenures can now be shewn; with this Possession went the Government, or God had given them nothing—Their Dictates to the Government of themselves were as natural as their Appetites to eat and drink; The Form, Manner, and Circumstances, such as the Person or Persons governing, &c. was wholly their own, and fairly left to them by their Maker, in that he no where prescrib'd it.

I can see no Contradiction in this, and the eternal Cavils of the Objector can never shake this Foundation; upon it all the Forms of Government in the World stand, and the *English* Constitution is the exactest Exemplification of it imaginable.

Once more therefore I have gratified Mr. *Rebearsal*, who is so peevish if he be not answer'd --- If he covets more cavilling, let him go on; I think I cannot do better than to leave him to honest *Roger* the Countryman, who I think is the best Match for him; he will clamour, not argue; rail and abuse where he cannot oppose; and this is the proper Talent of the Man; therefore I shall leave him, only if I may advise honest *Roger*, it should be seriously to ask Mr. *Rebearsal* a few Questions, perhaps he will answer his Questions, tho' he will not answer mine, and till he does, to say no more to him.

1st. Whether it is not true, that Mr. *Lesly*, alias *White*, alias I know not how many Names, does really not write the *Rebearsal*; but one Mr. *Lesly*, without any alias's, very nearly related to him, perhaps but one Descend; and so he has a very good Method to avoid any of the Charges laid upon him.

2dly. Whether Mr. *Lesly*, THE ELDER, who now pleads for *Jure Divino*, and by Consequence for Passive Obedience, did not himself take Arms in *Ireland* against his lawful and dread Sovereign King *James II.* whether he was not with the FIRST PARTY, that fir'd a Gun at his Lawful Authority; whether he did not joy in, if not draw up, the Declaration against the Arbitrary Power of those Days, in Behalf of the Protestants in the North of *Ireland*; whether the Original corrected by his own Hand, is not now in the Keeping of my Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*; and whether some noble Prelates now in *England* have not Copies of it by them?

3dly. How he came to be Malecontent, and turning Tail to that Power he first turn'd Head against, refuse to swear to the present Settlement; and how he can have the Face to call himself a Member of the Church of *England*, while he deems her Schismatick in actual Rebellion against her own Doctrines, and her lawful Sovereign?

4thly. That whereas he complains of the Reproaches of the *Observer* and *Review* upon the Inferiour Clergy, and particularly in saying, if Words were Treason, two thirds of them would be hang'd ---

Whether really two thirds of them all over the Nation, have not appear'd for the dangerous Experiment of the TACK, and by consequence for all its *Et Cetera's*, in Contempt of their Sovereign, and in manifest Pursuit of a Design to divide Her Majesty's Subjects, and destroy the publick Peace?

5thly. Whether any Clergy-man now in *England*, whom the *Observer* or *Review* have expos'd for scandalous Vices, have ever had the three Qualifications, upon which the *Review* says, no Man ought to be expos'd, viz. A clear Reputation before the Crime, a Surprize into it, and Penitence after it?

6thly. Whether a late *Rebearsal* affirming, that in Matters of the Succession of Princes, we are bound by our Fore-fathers, and have no Power to alter what they have done, is not down right Treason against the Queen and Government; and whether any Man ought now to be punish'd for calling

ing the Queen an Usurper, till that Author be call'd to answer for it —

7thly. Why he does not boast now of the Triumphs of his Rioters in *Coventry*, when their Cause is brought before Justice; whether the People, whom he formerly quoted there as acting for the Church, have not broke his Doctrine of passive Obedience in assaulting the Civil Magistrate, and insulting the Queen — And whether publick Justice has not legally determin'd, who are for the Church; about 50 of them being now indicted, and most of them convicted the last Assizes, and punish'd as they deserve for their Disloyalty and Unpeaceableness, things the Church of England abhors?

8. Ask him, how he makes out his ridiculous Notion of an Hereditary Enrail, and from what Principle he can give the

present Settlement of the Protestant Succession such an absurd Title; the Settlement of the Crown being no way Hereditary, but so far and no farther, as the Successor shall qualify himself by conforming to the Conditions prescrib'd by the People of England, viz. Being a Protestant, confirming and swearing to maintain the Privileges and Rights of the People, and consenting to submit to the Laws and Constitutions of this Realm?

When, honest Roger, he has answer'd these Queries, and as many more, which I doubt not thou canst put to him, then it may be Time to talk with him again; and till then, I cannot but think, we ought to let him alone for a Trifler, and one that indeed has a Cause will bear nothing but Trifling and Clamour.

MISCELLANEA.

MR. REVIEW,

YOU were pleas'd to take Notice in a late Review, of a Person was taken up by an Escape Warrant, while he was making his Examination before the Commissioners — since Mr. Dent — He is desirous to acquaint you; that the Creditor, who was prevail'd upon to use him with that Severity, has since been prevail'd with to consider the cruel Consequences of that way of Proceeding, and in Compassion to his Family has set him at Liberty, and he is willing you should do him Justice in the Case.

Your obliged humble Servant,

The poor Bankrupt.

I heartily wish, the Person, who sent me this Letter, would have been so grateful to the kind Creditor, as to have sent me his Name; I should very freely have given the World Opportunity to know him, and he should not have wanted the due Praise of so much Humanity.

'Tis plain, the Law of Escapes is a most bloody Act; that even the common Compassions of human Nature are mov'd at it, and some of the cruellest of Creditors relent at it; indeed, I think 'tis too violent a thing ever to prevail upon this Nation, so as to become a Practice among English Men.

Where it is executed, it cannot but quicken those, in whose Power it is, to deliver the miserable Object; and on this Account it was that I hinted before, such Proceeding would but hasten the Discharge of the Persons, who were thus fallen into the Hands of the Merciless — It has in some Measure appear'd already in the Case of Mr. Dent formerly mention'd; whose Commissioners touch'd with his Distress, like Men of Humanity as well as Justice, came to him to the Prison, and sat upon the Commission in the Press-Yard at Newgate, where they sign'd the Certificate for his Discharge.

It cannot be, that Methods of Cruelty can become a general Practice in England; they may be too frequent, and no Man has